

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A method for controlling a vehicle, in which

- the position of a pedal is detected by a sensor (1),
- at least two redundant signals corresponding to the position of the pedal are generated by this sensor (1);
- a plausibility check of the redundant signals generated with the aid of this sensor (1) is performed;

wherein

- a particular position of the pedal is detected by a switch and a signal is generated by the switch;
- a plausibility comparison of the signal generated by the switch with the signals generated by the sensor is performed.

2. The method as recited in Claim 1,

wherein, in the event that a faulty signal is detected, suitable measures for handling the fault are implemented.

3. The method as recited in Claim 1 or 2,

wherein the signal generated by the switch (2) is fed directly to a control and/or regulating unit (3).

4. The method as recited in Claim 1 or 2,

wherein

- the signal generated by the switch (2) is combined with the first signal generated via the sensor to form combined information;

- the combined information is transmitted to the control and/or regulating unit (3); and
- in the control and/or regulating unit, information describing the first signal generated by the sensor (1) and the signal generated by the switch (2) is extracted and compared to the other signal generated by the sensor (1) in such a way that a faulty pedal-travel sensor is detected.

5. The method as recited in one of Claims 1 through 4, wherein the signal generated by the switch (2) provides information as to whether or not the pedal is in an idle position.

6. The method as recited in one of Claims 1 through 5, wherein an additional signal is generated by at least one further switch, and a faulty pedal-travel sensor (1) and at least one faulty switch are detected using the totality of the signals.

7. A device for controlling a vehicle, comprising

- a sensor for detecting the position of a pedal, with the aid of which at least two redundant signals corresponding to the position of the pedal are generated; and
- a control and/or regulating unit (3) for controlling and/or regulating a vehicle, which is capable of performing a plausibility check of the redundant signals,

wherein

- a switch (2) for detecting a specific position of the pedal is provided, which is used to generate a signal; and

- the control and/or regulating unit (3) has means for performing a plausibility comparison of the redundant signals generated by the switch (2) and by the sensor.

8. The device as recited in Claim 7

wherein the control and/or regulating unit has means for detecting a faulty signal and for implementing suitable measures for handling faults.

9. The device as recited in Claim 7 or 8,

wherein the switch (2) is directly connected to the control unit via a line (14a).

10. The device as recited in Claim 7 or 8,

wherein

- means are provided for combining the first signal generated by the sensor (1) with the signal generated by the switch (2) to form combined information;
- means are provided for feeding the combined information to the control and/or regulating unit; and
- the control and/or regulating unit (3) has means for extracting information, describing the first signal generated by the sensor (1) and the signal generated by the switch (2), from the combined information and for comparing this information with another redundant signal generated by the sensor and for detecting a faulty pedal-travel sensor.

11. The device as recited in one of Claims 7 through 10,

wherein the switch (2) is an idle switch.

12. The device as recited in one of Claims 7 through 11,

wherein the device includes at least one additional switch for detecting a specific position of the pedal (15), which is used to generate a signal, and the device includes means in the control and/or regulating unit (3) for detecting a faulty pedal-travel sensor (1) and at least one faulty switch (2) by using the totality of the signals.

13. A computer program that is executable on a computer, particularly on a microprocessor (17),

wherein the computer program is suitable for implementing a method as recited in Claim 1 when it runs on a control and/or regulating unit (3).

14. The computer program as recited in Claim 13 that is executable on a computer, in particular on a microprocessor (17),

wherein the computer program is suitable for implementing a method as recited in Claim 2 through 6 when it runs on a control and/or regulating unit (3).

15. The computer program as recited in Claim 11,

wherein the computer program is stored in a memory element (16), in particular in a random-access memory, read-only memory or flash memory.